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# The Southern Region's Red-cockaded Woodpecker Management Strategy at a Glance

USDA Forest Service Southern Region

June 1995

## The USDA Forest Service Reveals Final Strategy to Recover Endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker

### *Plan Represents Common-Sense Approach to Endangered Species Management*

**What is the recovery strategy?**



The USDA Forest Service Southern Region unveiled today the final version of its plan which aims to recover populations of the federally-endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. At the same time, the region-wide strategy ensures the forests will continue to support local and rural economies through the sustainable flow of services and forest products. This management strategy strikes the balance between recovering endangered species while addressing other resources and local community interests.

The accompanying Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision detail the tenets of this plan while providing supporting information which led to the final strategy.

**Who developed this strategy? Why?**

Collaborating with other natural resource management leaders, researchers, other agencies and private citizens, the Forest Service developed this strategy to ensure the restoration and productivity of ecosystems largely as associated with red-cockaded woodpeckers. The Forest Service's role in the bird's management is critical because more than half of the woodpecker's known population occurs on national forests.

**What National Forests will be guided by this strategy?**

This strategy will be implemented in 11 states in the Southern Region. It does not apply to any other federal, state or private lands. While giving forest managers the flexibility to make reasonable decisions at the forest level to address social and economic issues, this strategy provides standards that will ensure conservation and recovery of the bird.

**When will it be implemented?**

We will begin implementing the strategy 30 days after the decision appears in the Federal Register. Within three years, forests will fully implement this strategy in their management plans, which guide all natural resource management.

**How were the public's concerns addressed?**

After reviewing and considering input from more than 300 public responses while conducting further analysis, forest specialists made changes in the draft proposal and issued today's final version. Those changes further ensure a balanced approach while increasing attention to local community concerns.

## Strategy Highlights

### How will this strategy affect National Forest management?

This strategy goes far beyond saving the woodpecker. It moves the Forest Service toward ecologically sound management and focuses on sustaining threatened habitats and ecosystems. This plan will restore healthy, fire-dependent forests that once typified the Southeast. This strategy will help recreate forest habitat more closely resembling conditions once common in fire-dependent pine ecosystems.

The plan fully recognizes that humans are interdependent parts of ecosystems. While aiming to recover the bird and provide its habitat, this plan is also sensitive to human needs. It ensures that forests continue to produce the full range of multiple uses, including a steady flow of high quality forest products.

This strategy minimizes impacts on most dependent species.

Forests will, in their land management plans, be able to address specific situations unique to their area with full consideration of other resources and values.

Implementation of this plan improves habitat for 170 threatened, endangered and sensitive species.

### What triggered this Plan?

This is not a drastic or sudden decision for the Forest Service. We have been involved in the woodpecker's management since 1975.

Despite our earlier efforts to save the bird, small populations continued to decline. So in 1990, we developed interim standards and guides and have recently moved toward this long-term plan to address the habitat needs of the bird consistently across the Southern Region

### Need more details?

We encourage you to read through the entire package of documents which detail and provide background to this decision. Section V and Section VI in the Record of Decision, can provide you a detailed summary of the strategy while telling how it will be implemented.

### Do you have questions?

If you have additional questions or concerns about these documents or would like additional copies, please telephone Dennis Krusac, team leader, in the Regional Office, Atlanta at (404) 347-4338. Or write: USDA Forest Service, Attn: RCW EIS, 1720 Peachtree Rd., N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30309-2417.

